

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>

*Week 4 ~ Exploring John 2:1-11*

## **Personal Study Time:**

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

**Day 1: Read John 2:1-11 through several times, then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Jesus was on a mission to save the whole world. If anyone could legitimately say that they had no time to waste on small talk it was Jesus. Write out a paragraph or two explaining why you think Jesus went to this wedding. What role did His attendance play in His overall mission?
- If you were allowed to choose one miracle to get you started in a new ministry for God, what kind of miracle do you think would make a significant impact on secular people today? Bringing true peace to the Middle East or the former Yugoslavia? Paying off the national debt? Raising someone from the dead? Predicting future events? List as many modern equivalents to the miracles of Jesus as you can and select the one that you would choose if you had the opportunity.

**Day 2: Reread John 2:1-11 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- At what point in the story does it become evident that this is not simply a charming little story but that there are deeper theological dynamics involved? The initial comment of Mary? The reply of Jesus? The mention of the size and purpose of the water pots? The miracle itself? The comment in verse 11? Explain your answer.

**Day 3: Reread John 1:1 through 2:11 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- List whatever elements you can find in the story, which build on the themes established in the first chapter of the Gospel.
- Running out of wine at an ancient wedding feast was embarrassing and humiliating. It broke a basic law of hospitality. Jesus reached out, therefore, to meet a heartfelt need. Make a list of the most heartfelt needs you can think of among family, neighbors and friends. Which of these needs could God use you to fill? Which of them is most urgent? Where would be the best place to begin?

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

**Day 4: Reread John 2:1-11 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- On the basis of this story alone, try to describe the relationship between Jesus and His mother. Now read John 19:25-27. Does the later incident change your impression of the relationship between Jesus and His mother? Read Matt 13:53-58. What is implied in the comments that Jesus' family and friends were "offended" by him, and that he had no honor in His own house? See also Mark 3:31-35.
- Think of the rejoicing that must have accompanied Jesus' gift of good wine. Are you rejoicing in the "good wine" of the gospel today? Or has your appreciation for Christ diminished in recent months and/or years? What things in your life make it more difficult to keep the sense of Christ's blessings fresh in your mind?

**Day 5: Reread John 2:1-11 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- Do the size and function of the water pots have anything to do with the deeper meaning of this story? Explain your answer.

**Day 6: Reread John 2:1-11 and then answer the following questions in your Gospel of John notebook.**

- In what way does the quantity and quality of the wine demonstrate the glory of Jesus (2:11)?
- Ultimately Mary submitted to let Jesus resolve the problem in whatever way He might choose (2:5). Are there areas of your life that need to be submitted to His will and control?

